



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Psychology

## Fall 2020 COLLOQUIUM SERIES

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*The Psychology Department is pleased to announce:*

Promotion Series | Introductory remarks by Lee Ryan

### Why do we make mistakes?

**Robert Wilson, Ph.D.**

Psychology Department, The University of Arizona

Friday, October 9, 2020

3:00 p.m. MST

<https://arizona.zoom.us/j/96088133842>

Whether it's flunking a test, missing an appointment, or being sucked in by a phishing email, we all make mistakes. In this talk I will outline two projects that investigate why we make mistakes. In the first project, I will address this question at the level of the brain, showing how some mistakes are caused by the limitations of our neural hardware. In the second, I will address this question at the level of the mind, showing how other mistakes arise from the algorithms (or the software) underlying our behavior. In both cases I will show how these hardware and software limits can actually be advantageous and that, in some cases, making mistakes may actually be the optimal thing to do.

*With questions about access or to request any disability-related accommodations for this talk, please contact Vanessa Noonkester, [vnoonkester@email.arizona.edu](mailto:vnoonkester@email.arizona.edu)*